

XXXVI.—On a new Dormouse from Mashunaland.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

MR. J. FFOLLIOTT DARLING, whose large collection of small mammals from Mazoe, Mashunaland, has just been described by Mr. de Winton*, has, now that the war is over, recommenced work at Enkeldorn, halfway between Salisbury and Buluwayo, whence he has sent to the National Museum a further small consignment of mammals. Among these there is one example of *Herpestes caffer*, one of *Georychus Darlingi*, and one of a dormouse which is clearly not the species he sent from Mazoe, but a much larger and quite distinct one, and which appears to be new. It may be called

Graphiurus platyops, sp. n.

Allied and fairly similar in external appearance to *G. murinus*, but rather larger and with a more bushy tail, of which the hairs are 25 to 28 millim. in length, and are brown, broadly tipped with white. In other external characters, colour, size and shape of ears, and character of fur, specimens of *G. murinus* may be found quite to match the new form.

Skull distinguished from that of *G. murinus*, as from that of every other known dormouse, by its remarkable flatness and breadth, which give it a most peculiar aspect. The flattening is most marked in the face, so that the vertical height from the palate to the nasion, measured with sliding calipers, is only 5·2 millim., as against 6·0 millim. in the smaller *G. murinus*. This difference of nearly a millimetre in height, combined with a greater breadth both of brain-case and zygomatic spread, makes a very material difference in the general aspect.

Looked at from above the muzzle appears broad and heavy, especially across the lacrymal region; nasals long; inter-orbital region narrow; brain-case broad and depressed; ante-orbital foramina widely open, molars small; palate ending opposite the back of $\frac{m.3}{3}$. Bullæ low and flattened.

Dimensions of the type (an adult male), measured by the collector in the flesh:—

Head and body 106 millim.; tail 69; hind foot 23·3; ear 14·2.

Skull: basal length 26·6; basilar length from lenselion 24·2; zygomatic breadth 17; nasals 13 × 3·6; interorbital

* P. Z. S. 1896, pp. 798-808.

breadth 4·2; breadth of brain-case behind zygomata 14; interparietal $8\cdot8 \times 3\cdot2$; palate length from henselion 10; diastema 7·7; length of upper molar series 3·1.

Hab. Enkeldorn, Mashunaland.

Type: B.M. no. 97. 2. 16. 2. Collected by J. folliott Darling, Oct. 10, 1896, and presented by him to the British Museum.

XXXVII.—*Note on Deridea*, Westwood (Lyttidæ), with the *Description of a new Species*. By Mrs. M. K. THOMAS.

DERIDEA was described by Westwood as a new genus, which he referred with doubt to the family Helopidæ, probably through a mistaken conclusion that the claws were simple. Fairmaire*, in remarking on this, discusses the position that ought to be assigned to the genus, and observes that at the first glance it approaches *Nemognatha*, but differs by the claws of the tarsi being simple, and considers therefore it should be placed at the end of the Cantharidæ, leading up to the *Ædemeridæ*.

This is, however, an error on his part, as the claws really are divided, although not pectinated, as in *Nemognatha*.

Furthermore, from a supposed resemblance to an insect he terms *Leptura tenuicollis*, Fabr. (placed by Schönherr among the Zonitidæ), he throws doubt on the validity of *Deridea curculionoides* as a species. It is, however, quite different to the specimen labelled (and apparently correctly) *Zonitis tenuicollis* in Mr. Bates's collection.

Deridea notata, sp. n.

Head glabrous, anteriorly black, posteriorly dark rufous-coloured.

Antennæ black, delicate, slender, not very long. The first joint long, the second very short, the third equal to the first, the remainder gradually diminishing in length.

Prothorax bright rufous-coloured, elongated, widening posteriorly, glabrous, thinly punctured; no median line; slightly pubescent, with sparse white or pale yellowish hairs.

Elytra finely punctured, shining, with pale yellow or white pubescence; nerves marked, entirely rufous-coloured, with the exception of the posterior half of each elytron, along the outer edge of which there is a narrow black band.

* Ann. Soc. Ent. France, 1891, p. 265.